

of World War II. Mr. De la Viña was assigned to the United States Air Force and honorably served his country as a staff sergeant and mechanic for the B-26 Bomber. Later, he was assigned to B-29 squadrons participating in the Pacific Theater and was stationed in Guam and Tinian Island. After the war, he returned back to Edinburg and the familiar surroundings of the classroom. It was then soon after, Mr. De la Viña met and married a fellow educator, Miss Grace Watkins. From this loving marriage of 39 years, came one son and three grandsons.

Robert's dedication to the Edinburg public schools spans more than four decades. He served not only as a teacher, but as an Assistant Principal and Director of Special Services for the school district. After 37 years of commitment to the education and enrichment of the children from the Edinburg school district, he retired with numerous honors. Within a couple years of his retirement, Mr. De la Viña took his vision and passion for public education back to the community and ran for School Board Trustee. He served his community as Trustee for six years, giving a total of 43 years to the Edinburg School District and the community of Edinburg. His legacy and those of fellow De la Viña educators in South Texas, however, lives on, as March 23, 1986, marked the dedication of De la Viña Elementary School in Edinburg. On Robert's 85th birthday, the Mayor of Edinburg officially recognized his commitment to the city and people of Edinburg and proclaimed April 9, 1999: "Robert De la Viña Sr. Day."

Another phase of Robert De la Viña's life has been his devotion to his faith. Growing up in one of the founding family's of El Buen Pastor Methodist Church in Edinburg, Robert has helped the Church expand from the few families that assembled at his father's house to the hundreds that congregate today. Robert has actively participated in all phases of the Church's activities since his confirmation in 1926, such as Board Member, Choir and Youth Director and Sunday school teacher, a position he cherished for more than 30 years. Even to this day, Mr. De la Viña can be heard performing many of his original religious musical compositions on the piano at El Buen Pastor.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robert R. De la Viña, as the oldest living member of a family that was designated a "Bicentennial Family" in 1976 by the American Historical Society, has touched the lives of so many people in South Texas. On April 9th of this year, Mr. De La Viña celebrated his 90th birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing his dedication to public education and his decades of service to South Texas and this nation.

WALNUT CANYON STUDY ACT OF 2004

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2004.

The Walnut Canyon National Monument was originally designated by Presidential proclamation on November 30, 1915, to protect Sinaguan cliff dwellings. Since the original

designation, the Walnut Canyon National Monument has been expanded to include 3,580 acres to protect additional ruins adjacent to the Monument.

In the past few years, several groups have proposed expanding the Monument with surrounding Forest Service land and designating this expanded area as a National Park. To further explore the options of the Walnut Canyon National Monument and potential inclusion of this expanded area, I have introduced the Walnut Canyon Study Act.

The Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2004 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the management of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff have both passed resolutions supporting further review and study of the management options for the Walnut Canyon National Monument. In both resolutions, support for maintaining certain public uses in the Monument was relayed, as well as the need for the protection of the resources in the Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for public input into any recommendation that is forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Within the study, the legislation requires the Secretaries to look at the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service, as well as the opportunities for maintaining existing public uses, such as grazing, hunting and recreation. In addition, my version of this legislation ensures that any appropriation made available in this legislation will not affect the amounts made available for Forest Service or National Park Service activities in the State of Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2004. My intent in introducing this legislation is to help resolve the question of future management of the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

TRIBUTE TO FLOYD STEWART

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to a close, personal friend of mine, Floyd Stewart. He is a man of great integrity and character, and I join today with family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements throughout his life.

Floyd served admirably in the armed forces during WWII and fought on the front lines of our military for 11 months. He was stationed in Normandy and Luxembourg during this time and was a member of the Combat Engineers, Unit 148. He was also a soldier in the Battle of the Bulge, the largest land battle of World War II featuring over 500,000 Americans and over 80,000 casualties.

Throughout his time serving our nation, Floyd exhibited tremendous passion, pride, and a deep resolve to fight for the freedoms that we, as Americans, have been fortunate to experience. He continues to be respected member of his community and beloved member of his family. His kind and passionate spirit are an incredible resource and blessing to those who know him.

I have had the distinct privilege of enjoying Floyd Stewart's friendship for several years now. I have played golf with him at El Rancho Verde Golf Club, where he is a member, and seen firsthand his generosity of spirit and love for his fellow man.

It gives me no greater pleasure than joining today with family and friends in paying tribute to this great man. His unselfish duty to our country should not be overlooked. He is a symbol of all that we, as Americans, strive to be and I present to him today my steadfast thanks for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF FALLEN SOLDIERS FOR SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, ninety years ago this month, President Woodrow Wilson stood in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and said of America's fallen soldiers: "We are expected to put the utmost energy, of every power that we have, into the service of our fellow men, never sparing ourselves, not condescending to think of what is going to happen to ourselves, but ready, if need be, to go to the utter length of self-sacrifice."

Today, American troops are again in harm's way risking their lives in defense of freedom and democracy. In Afghanistan and Iraq, we are confronting forces opposed to these values. They represent the darkness of oppression, fanaticism and fear. But America—led by its troops—will prevail. To those brave men and women who have given their lives in this pursuit, I join my colleagues in recognizing their noble sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE GRAND LEDGE ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT FOR WINNING THE 2004 STATE OF MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community of Grand Ledge, Michigan for the successful completion of the Island Park Restoration Project. For the past five years, countless individuals and groups have persistently worked with patience and pride to restore the luster of the cultural, recreational, and economic gem nestled in the heart of Grand Ledge.

The Island Park is a 2.5-acre recreation facility in downtown Grand Ledge. It is an integral part of Grand Ledge's history and culture, and it serves as one of the city's main tourist attractions. Beginning in the 1870s, Grand Ledge was characterized as a charming summer resort town situated on the banks of the majestic Grand River. The principal attraction was the picturesque scenery, with intermingled cliff, river, and island views. As many as 12 trainloads of visitors from across the state would visit the city each day.